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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Shannon McGarrah on 4/23/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, please **replace** the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 18 and spanning to page 8, line 2, with the following paragraph:

T-cell proliferation assay. Peripheral blood leukocytes (PBL) in each blood sample were counted using Nova Celltrak II (Beckman Coulter Corp., FL). Blood was diluted (1:20) with supplemented media. Diluted blood was plated, in triplicate, in 96 well cell culture plates with the following mitogens diluted in supplemented media: Concanavalin A (0.5 µg/ml, 2.5µg/ml. Plates were incubated in a humidified incubator containing 7% CO₂ at 37°C for 72 hrs. Cellular DNA was Ci/ well [pulse labeled 18 hrs before harvesting with 1 ³H] thymidine. Cellular DNA was harvested on glass fiber paper using a cell harvester (Skatron Instruments Inc., VA) and suspended with 1.5 ml scintillation cocktail. [³H]thymidine uptake was quantified as counts per minutes (CPM) using TriCarb 2100TR Liquid Scintillation Analyzer (Packard BioScience Company, IL). Counts were normalized to CPM/10,000 cells to account for variation in PBL concentrations.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALLISON M. FORD whose telephone number is (571)272-2936. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-6 M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Allison M. Ford/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1651